

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00801 110621Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----113902 111021Z /17-R
R 101015Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5620

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 00801

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: HIJACKING

REF: (A) MANAMA-033 (B) 76 STATE 290399
(C) STATE 000761

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER JAN 10 I EXPRESSED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST HIJACKING AND ASKED HIM TO REVIEW FOR ME RATIONALE BEHIND BAHRAINI DECISION NOT TO ACCEDE TO TOKYO, HAGUE, AND MONTREAL CONVENTION. FONMIN SAID HE WAS UNACQUAINTED WITH ISSUE BUT HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT BAHRAIN HAD ACCEDED TO "ONE OR TWO" OF THESE CONVENTIONS AND HAD NOT ACCEDED TO OTHER(S) BECAUSE OF CLAUSES OBJECTIONABLE TO ARAB STATES.

2. I REPLIED THAT BAHRAIN HAD NOT ACCEDED TO ANY OF CONVENTIONS AND THAT MAJOR REGIONAL POWERS, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, HAD ACCEDED TO ALL THREE. FONMIN WAS SURPRISED AT THIS AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER. FONMIN SAID BAHRAIN OF COURSE WAS INTERESTED IN COMBATING HIJACKING AND WONDERED ALOUD WHY GOB CIVIL AVIATION PEOPLE HAD NOT KEPT UP WITH THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM. HE ASKED FOR LISTS OF COUNTRIES ADHERING AND NOT ADHERING AND PROMISED TO DISCUSS ISSUE FURTHER WITH ME SOON.

3. COMMENT: FONMIN SEEMED SINCERE IN HIS BELIEF THAT
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00801 110621Z

BAHRAIN HAD ADHERED TO ONE OR TWO OF CONVENTIONS, AND GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD ACCEDED TO ALL. I THINK THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE THAT FONMIN WILL GIVE QUESTION CAREFUL STUDY AND MAY THEN FOLLOW SAUDI LEAD. NEGATIVE FACTOR HERE IS THAT KUWAIT AND LOWER GULF STATES HAVE NOT ACCEDED. GOB MIGHT FEEL IT SHOULD NOT BE OUT OF STEP WITH QATAR, UAE, AND OMAN WITH WHICH STATES IT SHARES

OW ERSHIP OF GULF AIR. I WILL RECOMMEND FORM OF ANY FURTHER
APPROACH TO GOB AFTER FONMIN HAS HAD CHANCE TO STUDY ISSUE.
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